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a few fundamental questions are still left unanswered. The account is brought down to the beginnings of the factory system in the eighteenth century, with a promise on the part of the author to work up this latter period more fully at some future time. Geering's book cannot claim to be of importance commensurate with Schmoller's great works on the Strassburg guilds, but the student will find in it much valuable material with which to revise his opinions on mediæval industry.

E. R. A. S.

Co-operation in a Western City. By ALBERT SHAW, Ph.D., Associate Editor of the Minneapolis Daily Tribune. American Economic Association. Vol. I, No. 4. 1886.—8vo, 106 pp.

Les Artèles et le mouvement co-opératif en Russie. Par W. LOUQUININE. Paris, au cercle Saint-Simon. 1886.—8vo, 148 pp.

In contrast with the many works that have of late recounted with a weary iteration the oft-told story of Rochdale, Guise, and Leclaire, the present monograph of Dr. Shaw on *Co-operation in a Western City* must be accorded a hearty welcome. It is the detailed description of a remarkable experiment, of which only vague rumors had hitherto reached the outside world. We see, traced in a clear and spirited manner, the phenomenal success of less than twenty Minneapolis coopers, banding together with an investment of \$15 apiece, and growing into a society of ninety members, with a capital of well-nigh \$60,000. Such a brilliant showing could not but result in the initiation of similar enterprises, whose methods and results Dr. Shaw expounds with an admirable breadth of view and mastery of principle. It is gratifying to read that "the coopers themselves are emphatic in saying that the moral effects of their co-operative movement constitute its highest success." But it is evident that the founders were also keen business men. One distinguishing and unique feature of the chief society is the provision that all ordinary gains or losses are to be apportioned *pro rata* upon the wages received by each member, *i.e.*, in proportion to the work he has done; while other losses and gains, like those resulting from the work of hired help, or change in the value of real estate, or losses by fire or failure of business firms, are to be apportioned equally among the members, all of whom must be equal shareholders. This, as Dr. Shaw points out, distinguishes between the men as capitalists and as laborers, and possesses a great practical value. It might with advantage be imitated in similar enterprises. The remaining chapters are devoted to an equally lucid and interesting account of the other forms of co-operative undertakings, such as agricultural colonies, mercantile companies, and build-

ing associations, while a special chapter treats of the huge profit-sharing scheme of the Pillsbury mills. Of course, in viewing the success of the Minneapolis attempts, the unparalleled growth of the city and all connected with it must be borne in mind ; the almost fabulous appreciation in values has materially advanced the interests of the co-operators, as well as of all others. But too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that the movement originated with the workmen themselves. As Dr. Shaw says : "It had no literary or philanthropic or *doctrinaire* beginnings. It received no coddling or advertising. Its advent was attended with no speech-making or enthusiasm." The plain, business-like, matter-of-fact character of the whole movement is the one that most thoroughly recommends it, and its success cannot but have a proselytizing effect. One of the cheering signs of the time is the prodigious impulse given to all such schemes throughout the country in the last twelve months, and the record of a success like that told in Dr. Shaw's admirable essay can only push on the good work.

That the movement, moreover, is not confined to America or the western states of Europe is shown by Louguinine's *Les Artèles et le mouvement co-opératif en Russie*. It is a matter for regret that the books of Kalatschoff and Isaieff have not yet been translated ; the only source of general knowledge of the Russian *artels* or co-operative institutions having hitherto been the *résumé* of Isaieff's work by Dr. Stieda in Conrad's *Fahrbücher* some years ago. The co-operative spirit has always been a marked feature of the Russian character, as is shown by the permanence of the village community idea in the *mir* system. Some of the artels date back for centuries. Mr. Louguinine, who has himself been instrumental in introducing the co-operative banks into Russia, classes the artels into the old Russian unions dating from the fourteenth century, the mercantile societies dating from Peter the Great, and the modern productive, consumptive, banking, and insurance associations on the co-operative plan. Here again it appears that the productive associations which were inaugurated in the past few decades by governmental authority and assistance have all failed, while those dependant on private initiative and self-help have succeeded. The *zemstvo* of Tver, e.g., started, in 1870, twenty-seven societies of nailmakers, shoemakers, and others, giving and lending them large sums of money, a method which was followed by the local governments in Pavlovo, Kazan, and other places. Although at one time these societies were forced into artificial prosperity, they have now all disappeared. On the other hand, the associations formed by the workmen themselves in several of the factories in Ural and elsewhere, as, e.g., in Nijni-Tourino and Ekaterinbourg, seem to have prospered. Mr. Louguinine then shows that of all societies the credit-banks have been the most successful. While

he has but faint hopes of the continued existence or vitality of the artels, he believes that a bright future is reserved for the modifications of the old idea introduced by occidental Europe. The industrial system of Russia is certainly by no means a model at present.

E. R. A. S.

The Official History of the Great Strike of 1886 on the Southwestern Railway System. By OSCAR KOCHTITSKY. Jefferson City, 1886.—8vo, 117 pp.

Mr. Kochtitsky stands at the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Inspection of Missouri, and has therefore had excellent facilities for obtaining the "inside" view of the Southwestern strike. He himself, in his official capacity, took a prominent part in the movement, and has now undertaken to compile a report based on authentic documents and sources for the National Bureau of Labor. The scope of the work may be gleaned from the statement in the introduction that the history "is simply a compilation of historical facts, official correspondence, and important data obtained from the most trustworthy sources. It is intended to be perfectly fair and impartial. As to the merits of the contest, the reader must form his own opinion." There is thus no occasion for criticism, nor for any comments beyond the statement that a complete survey of the movement is now first authoritatively given. This compilation, together with the testimony taken by the Congressional committee, will remain the chief source of our information as to the most important strike of modern times.

E. R. A. S.